

REMARKS

This Paper is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed on September 5, 2006 and having a statutory response period that ends on December 5, 2006. This Paper is submitted within the shortened statutory response period. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees to Deposit Account number 02-1818.

Claims 1-11, 13-33, and 35-41 are pending. Claims 12, 34, and 42-44 have been canceled.

Claims 1-11, 13-33, and 35-41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,297,322 to Ding et al. (*Ding*). Applicants respectfully traverse and disagree with this alleged rejection as *Ding* should be removed as a reference for the reason set forth below.

The present application, application serial number 09/526,379 and U.S. Patent No. 6,297,322 to Ding et al., were, at the time the invention of application serial number 09/526,379 was made, owned by Baxter International Inc. See Reel/Frame No. 011148/0113. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that *Ding* be removed as a reference in accordance with 35 U.S.C. §103(c).

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and earnestly solicit reconsideration of same.

Respectfully submitted,
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BY



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